

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/734,961

Applicant(s)

HAWKINSON, DANIEL C.

Examiner

Samuel J. Walk

Art Unit

2632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-15, 17, 18 and 20-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. In the Amendment dated 01/03/2006, Claims 16 and 19 have been cancelled; therefore, Claims 5-15, 17-18 and 20-24 remain pending.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Vargo on 02/15/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

5. An alarm system comprising:

a first plurality of ambient condition detectors coupled by a medium to first control circuits to act as a source of alarm indicating signals;

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a plurality of exit indicating output devices coupled by a second medium to second control circuits; and

a second plurality of ambient condition detectors, at least some of the detectors are coupled to respective ones of the output devices to disable operation thereof in response to a locally sensed predetermined condition.

10. A method comprising:

determining that a hazardous condition is present in a region as indicated by at least one of a first plurality of ambient condition detectors;

providing spaced apart indicia along at least one exit path from the region; and

determining if a hazardous condition is present in a vicinity of a portion of the exit path as indicated by at least one of a second plurality of ambient condition detectors, and, responsive thereto, terminating the indicia at least in that vicinity of the exit path.

22. A distributed control system comprising:

a source of alarm indicating signals as indicated by at least one of a first plurality of ambient condition detectors;

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a plurality of egress indicating output modules, the modules configurable to emit outputs to define an egress path from a region;

a second plurality of ambient condition detectors, some of the detectors are coupled to at least a first output module, others are coupled to at least a second output module, where one or more alarm indicating outputs from the some detectors suppress the output from the first module and where one or more alarm indicating outputs from the others suppress the output from the second module.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to show at least one ambient condition detector acting as an alarm source to indicate outlet or egress from a region and a second plurality of ambient condition detectors that act as an alarm suppression to suppress the alarm in the area of a locally detected predetermined condition.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to

avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel J. Walk whose telephone number is (571) 272-2960. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas J. Mullen, Jr.
Thomas J. Mullen, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2632

2-21-06